

REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE
PROTEST SATURDAY 19 MARCH

London ★ Glasgow ★ Cardiff ★ Called by Stand Up to Racism [standuproracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk) >>Pages 2,3 & 12



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2493 | 2-8 March 2016 | socialistworker.co.uk

BEATEN, GASSED, EVICTED

TORIES' CALAIS CRIME



WE SAY OPEN THE BORDERS NOW

**AFGHAN REFUGEE
SPEAKS OUT FROM THE
'JUNGLE' CAMP**

**'THEY TREAT
US LIKE
ANIMALS'**

AT BRITAIN'S border in Calais and Greece's border with Macedonia, Europe's police are using pepper spray, tear gas, batons and riot shields to terrorise desperate refugees.

French police began evicting refugees from the Calais "Jungle" on Monday.

In just one day they smashed up 100 of the shacks the refugees had built to shelter from the desperate conditions.

Afghan refugee Mohamed told Socialist Worker, "There are 50 or 60 police vans here. The police are forcing people to leave by terrifying them."

Some people sat on their



Bulldozers doing Cameron's bidding

shelters to stop them being smashed. A few in desperation set them on fire. Others blocked the road in protest. Riot cops pushed them back

Meanwhile Macedonian cops baton-charged refugees trying to leave Greece at the Idomeni border crossing.

They bombarded crowds including small children with tear gas in revenge for refugees successfully smashing through the fence to defy the cruel blockade.

In Calais the eviction had been delayed for a court hearing last week. But officials turned up at refugees' tents and shelters the next morning. Cops followed days later.

Officially the refugees are given two options. They can go to accommodation centres

>>continued on page 2



THE THINGS THEY SAY
The 19 March anti-racist demos can be an antidote to David Cameron's poison, says Dave Sewell

'We must provide a humanitarian response to the situation in Calais'

French prime minister Manuel Valls shortly before ordering a police raid

'With respect to people's dignity'

How French interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve said the Calais evictions would be carried out

'We're in front of policeman in full riot gear, some with rubber bullets, tear gas canisters'

Volunteer Rowan Farrell on the reality of the Calais evictions

'Even dogs are treated better than we are'

Mohamed, an Afghan refugee

'We stand ready to support the French government'

Tory immigration minister James Brokenshire

'Calais burns'

The Express can hardly contain its excitement

'Calais has every right to want these camps gone'

Ukip's Mike Hookem

'I am satisfied'

Calais mayor Natacha Bouchart



The 19 March anti-racist demos can be an antidote to David Cameron's poison, says Dave Sewell

'We must provide a humanitarian response to the situation in Calais'

French prime minister Manuel Valls shortly before ordering a police raid

'With respect to people's dignity'

How French interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve said the Calais evictions would be carried out

'We're in front of policeman in full riot gear, some with rubber bullets, tear gas canisters'

Volunteer Rowan Farrell on the reality of the Calais evictions

'Even dogs are treated better than we are'

Mohamed, an Afghan refugee

'We stand ready to support the French government'

Tory immigration minister James Brokenshire

'Calais burns'

The Express can hardly contain its excitement

'Calais has every right to want these camps gone'

Ukip's Mike Hookem

'I am satisfied'

Calais mayor Natacha Bouchart

>> continued from page 1

outside Calais—but only for a month. Or they can cram into

the shipping containers that make up the new prison-like official camp at Calais. To enter they must give their fingerprints—which can be used as an excuse to deny them asylum if they ever reach Britain. In reality they have nowhere to go.

The French state is acting outrageously, as are those in the Balkans.

But Britain's government bears full responsibility for the crime.

It means people are risking their lives to

Union it is pressuring southern states to repress refugees before they can come here. And without the Tories' refusal to let refugees cross the border, the horrific camps at Calais and Dunkirk would not even exist.

Fences

Mohamed explained,

"Britain spends millions of pounds every year on border controls—on security, on fences.

Through the European

get across illegally. "The money spent only swells the profit of the people traffickers.

"They used to charge £2,000 to take someone across, now it's £8,000 or £10,000.

"It would be cheaper, easier and simpler for everyone if people could apply for asylum and get across legally instead of putting lives in danger."

As Mohamed said,

"We are humans, and we need to be treated like humans."

See page 12 for Stand Up to Racism protests and rallies

to descend on Saturday 12 March.

Between the empty homes of rich investors and the cash blown on Trident nuclear weapons there is room for all those stuck in Calais and at Idomeni too.

Against this outrage we must all take to the streets on Saturday 19 March.

As Mohamed said,

"We are humans, and we need to be treated like humans."

Austria pushed an agreement with Balkan states to limit refugees from Greece. Austrian and Serbian cops were sent to the Greek-Macedonian border, even firing tear gas into Greece. Greece's government is furious at being turned into a "giant refugee camp" for Europe. It would rather Nato warships in the Aegean Sea stopped refugees before they reached Greece. It now limits the transport of refugees from the Greek islands on to Athens. Instead ferries are now being used as temporary floating refugee camps.



STAND UP to Racism activists were out campaigning at last Saturday's march against Trident in London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

We all need to join this demo—and to campaign for it

Tories' Calais crime—fight to let the refugees in



the shipping containers that make up the new prison-like official camp at Calais. To enter they must give their fingerprints—which can be used as an excuse to deny them asylum if they ever reach Britain. In reality they have nowhere to go.

The French state is acting outrageously, as are those in the Balkans.

But Britain's government bears full responsibility for the crime.

It means people are risking their lives to

Union it is pressuring southern states to repress refugees before they can come here. And without the Tories' refusal to let refugees cross the border, the horrific camps at Calais and Dunkirk would not even exist.

Fences

Mohamed explained,

"Britain spends millions of pounds every year on border controls—on security, on fences.

Through the European

get across illegally. "The money spent only swells the profit of the people traffickers.

"They used to charge £2,000 to take someone across, now it's £8,000 or £10,000.

"It would be cheaper, easier and simpler for everyone if people could apply for asylum and get across legally instead of putting lives in danger."

As Mohamed said,

"We are humans, and we need to be treated like humans."

Austria pushed an agreement with Balkan states to limit refugees from Greece. Austrian and Serbian cops were sent to the Greek-Macedonian border, even firing tear gas into Greece. Greece's government is furious at being turned into a "giant refugee camp" for Europe. It would rather Nato warships in the Aegean Sea stopped refugees before they reached Greece. It now limits the transport of refugees from the Greek islands on to Athens. Instead ferries are now being used as temporary floating refugee camps.

Border controls tighten as EU elite show true colours

EUROPEAN UNION (EU) states turned on each other last week in a bid to keep out refugees.

Greece recalled its ambassador from Austria, while Belgium defied rulings from the EU Commission and the protests of France's government.

Austria pushed an agreement with Balkan states to limit refugees from Greece. Austrian and Serbian cops were sent to the Greek-Macedonian border, even firing tear gas into Greece.

Greece's government is furious at being turned into a "giant refugee camp" for Europe. It would rather Nato warships in the Aegean Sea stopped refugees before they reached Greece. It now limits the transport of refugees from the Greek islands on to Athens. Instead ferries are now being used as temporary floating refugee camps.

Belgium imposed border controls with France to stop people fleeing the Calais evictions from crossing. It deployed almost 300 extra border cops—defying the rules for visa free travel.

The latest EU summit on the refugee crisis will aim to contain the rows and hold the EU together. But Europe's rulers would rather abandon their unity than accept desperate refugees.

REFUGEES FORCED the Idomeni Greek-Macedonian border crossing open last summer, but it was closed again to all refugees except Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis as winter approached.

Then the Afghans were turned away. Now the Iraqis and Syrians are being stopped.

Thousands are now stuck there—many forced to sleep out in the rain and snow with not even enough tents to go round. Akram left Syria after being "caught in the crossfire" of its civil war.

"I just want to be safe," he told Socialist Worker. "The conditions in Idomeni are terrible, we are like animals here."

Leila fled Mosul in Iraq after Isis took over. She said, "We only managed to find a tent two days ago and it is cold at night. But the largest problem is that we don't know what will happen. "We hear rumours but don't know what is true and what is not. Will the borders open? Will they take us?"

Akram said,

"If I could say something to people in Europe it would be, 'Please help us, we cannot go back home.'

Leila's message was simply, "Don't forget us."

Interviews by Maria Pantazi

Nato warships heading for the Aegean

Belgium imposed border controls with France to stop people fleeing the Calais evictions from crossing. It deployed almost 300 extra border cops—defying the rules for visa free travel.

The latest EU summit on the refugee crisis will aim to contain the rows and hold the EU together. But Europe's rulers would rather abandon their unity than accept desperate refugees.

REFUGEES FORCED the Idomeni Greek-Macedonian border crossing open last summer, but it was closed again to all refugees except Afghans, Syrians and Iraqis as winter approached.

Then the Afghans were turned away. Now the Iraqis and Syrians are being stopped.

Thousands are now stuck there—many forced to sleep out in the rain and snow with not even enough tents to go round.

"We hear rumours but don't know what is true and what is not. Will the borders open? Will they take us?"

Akram said,

"If I could say something to people in Europe it would be, 'Please help us, we cannot go back home.'

Leila's message was simply, "Don't forget us."

Interviews by Maria Pantazi

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email: reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Newsdesk: 020 7840 5656

Circulation: 020 7840 5601



Write to: Socialist Worker, PO Box 7127, London, SE11 9BW

IN BRIEF

Arson attack on asylum centre

A SUSPECTED petrol bomb was thrown at an asylum seeker centre in Aintree near Liverpool earlier this month.

Last week police said they were treating the arson as racially motivated. Up to 15 asylum seekers at a time live in the building.

A source told the Liverpool Echo it "is continuously attacked" with windows boarded up "because they could not afford to replace glass" every time it is smashed.

Call for united European demos

NEARLY 1,500 people took part in a short march in solidarity with refugees from the European Union offices to Spanish government offices in Barcelona last Saturday.

It was backed by the city's left wing government.

This was followed by music and a rally—and a call for a united demonstration on 19 March, which will be a day of coordinated protests across Europe including Greece, Britain, France, Poland, Spain, Austria and Germany.

Tunnel walkers face Kent court

THREE REFUGEES who walked through the Channel Tunnel will appear at Canterbury Crown Court this week.

The hearing of Sudanese refugee Abdul Rahman Haroun is on Thursday.

Payam Moradi Mirhessari and Fardin Vahdani, both Iranians, are due to have their cases heard the next day.

They are charged with "obstructing engines or carriages on railways" under section 36 of the 1861 Malicious Damage Act.

Abdul has been granted asylum in Britain. Fardin and Payam have not.

MORE ON THE WEB

www.socialistworker.co.uk

● Afghan refugee speaks out as French cops raid Calais 'Jungle' camp bit.ly/1QnRqm

● South African students ignite growing protest movement bit.ly/1VMTca

● GMB council of war helps Labour right rally against Jeremy Corbyn over Trident bit.ly/21vLB0

● Heathrow 13 protesters avoid jail in a 'victory for the movement' bit.ly/1oJ7uYI

Big London demo says Trident has got to go

A march against nuclear weapons in London rejected Tory lies on Trident, writes Tomáš Tengely-Evans

TENS OF thousands of people marched against Trident in London last Saturday in the biggest demonstration against nuclear weapons in a generation.

It was a snapshot of the general radicalisation taking place among hundreds of thousands of people.

Coaches came from places across Britain, including Glasgow, Cardiff, Chesterfield and Plymouth.

Ira Deadman from Norwich summed up people's anger at the Tories spending billions on Trident.

"We're told that we live in a time of austerity, but there is plenty of money for nuclear weapons," she said.

Shanta, Ross and Sian, on the coach from Cardiff, all agreed that "education, health care and prison reform are all better things to spend Trident money on. Mutually assured destruction is MAD."

Survival

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) organised the march and said that 60,000 people joined it. Tony Staunton, who sits on CND's national council, said, "It's not just about the money—it's about our health and very survival."

Protester Takako held photos of the destruction wrought by nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

BACK STORY

The biggest march against nuclear weapons in a generation took place last Saturday

● The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament called the London protest

● Those marching rejected the idea that renewing Trident was necessary to protect jobs

● Many said the money should be spent on things such as the NHS

● Speakers at the rally included Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and union leader Mark Serwotka



SOME OF the tens of thousands who joined the march to scrap Trident last Saturday

GMB council of war helps Labour right

OVER 50 GMB union delegates from the defence industry gathered in Newcastle on Thursday of last week to discuss Trident renewal.

The meeting will form the basis of the union's response to the Labour Party's defence review.

Those from sites closely associated with Trident unanimously backed its renewal.

The Labour right and union leadership used the meeting as a council of war against Jeremy Corbyn.

Gary Smith, GMB Scotland secretary, told delegates there were people at the heart of Labour who "want you to lose your jobs".

He said they were "armchair generals playing their student politics as they sip lattes".

John Woodcock MP said, "I'm not going to let the unilateralists have a clear run if Jeremy Corbyn is determined to revisit Trident renewal."

Kevan Jones MP said he wanted to "expose the myth" that Labour didn't support nuclear weapons.

The GMB leadership argued for Trident renewal in order to keep manufacturing jobs.

A GMB survey at the start of this month said the first 52 councils to set budgets this year would axe 25,165 jobs. Some 22,128 of them will be in Labour local authorities.

GMB leaders should be fighting those councils to defend jobs, not fighting Corbyn over Trident.

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

For a longer version see bit.ly/21vLBOj

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

TORY BUDGET CUTS POSE A CHALLENGE TO UNIONS

TORY chancellor George Osborne's lies about the economy are falling apart.

His solution is to redouble the failed policies, and to rob even more from workers and the poor.

The Tories' election manifesto claimed, "Britain is back on its feet, strong and growing stronger every day." It was rubbish then, and it's rubbish now.

On a visit to China last week Osborne admitted, "The economy is smaller than we thought in Britain".

The other is holding back an increase in MPs' pay. Last week the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) confirmed MPs will be given a new 1.3 percent pay rise from April.

The British economy is slowing while the European economy and world economies are stagnant.

Osborne is preparing to announce billions more in cuts in a budget on 16 March.

But he's not waiting until then to loot from us.

The government has brushed aside a 158 to 0 Commons vote for changes to the new pension regime which will snatch £30 billion from payouts to women.

The Tories are pressing ahead with the equalisation of state pension ages at 65 from this year.

And they want to raise it to 66 for women and men from 2020. Yet there are two cuts the Tories have definitely ruled out.

One is the tens of billions earmarked for Trident nuclear missiles.

They, and the anti-Corbyn Labour right, attacked the tens of thousands who marched against such weapons last weekend.

The junior doctors' strike next week is a chance to begin turning the tide (see page 20).

Everyone can raise the issue at work, get to a picket line or demonstration, and send support and solidarity.

A victory for the junior doctors can encourage a wider defence of the NHS.

And members of unions that represent close to a million local government workers in England and Wales have rejected a pay deal.

If the union leaders seized every opportunity for a fightback we could wipe the smiles off the smug Tories' faces.

Cameron and Osborne will not stop their attacks unless they meet real resistance. It needs to happen now.

"The Tories are on the attack and the trade unions are mostly retreating"

SHOWTIME FOR BLAIRITES

LABOUR HAS a problem with bullies—but not the ones you might have heard about.

Some of the party's young activists met in Scarborough last Saturday for a weekend of squabbling by the sea.

Accusations of bullying and intimidation were rife.

Labour's "moderates"—anyone from the soft left to hard right—are particularly upset at being called Blairites.

Labour MPs weighed in. Jess Phillips threatened to "kick off

"momma style". Wes Streeting said the conference showed "the worst, most poisonous form of student politics".

In truth the right are outraged at any threat to their control.

Labour politicians like to show how politics should be done at their weekly meeting on Mondays.

Last month anonymous sources delighted in telling of how they shouting down shadow defence secretary Emily Thornberry as she gave a presentation on opposing Trident.

This week a Labour peer turned up with a bag of popcorn to let everyone know he was enjoying the show.

"I'm literally bringing popcorn with me!" he said, just in case anyone didn't get the joke.

Socialist Worker doesn't believe in turning the other cheek. Any Labour MP that supports Trident and war should be challenged.

But we won't hold our breath waiting for the findings of Labour's investigation into its members' behaviour in Scarborough.

Internal battles won't beat Labour right wing

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn defied the right in his party when he spoke at the CND rally.

His decision to speak flew in the face of Labour figures such as deputy leader Tom Watson, who wants to keep Trident.

Watson last week spoke to the Engineering Employers Federation. He said, "I have made it clear to David Cameron that if he honours his promise of a vote on Trident I will support it.

"There are enough Labour MPs to guarantee that the vote is won."

Meanwhile Young Labour members met in Scarborough for their annual conference.

They elected a representative to Labour's National Executive Committee.

James Elliott, who was backed by Corbyn-supporters' group Momentum, lost by 0.1 percent of the vote.

Leaked screenshots of a Facebook conversation appear to show his opponent Jasmin Beckett encouraging her supporters to link Elliott to

accusations of Antisemitism.

The left in Labour must take on the right inside the party.

But it is a mistake to prioritise internal battles involving small numbers of Labour Party activists.

Corbyn is at his strongest as part of a mass movement.

Nick Clark



Deputy Labour leader Tom Watson

SOCIALIST



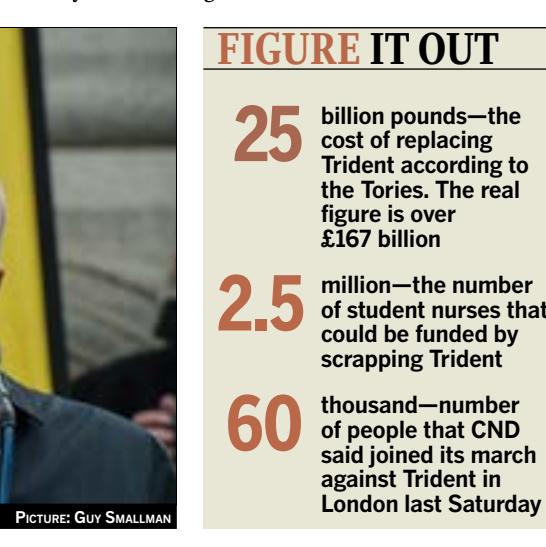
Get Socialist Worker every week

If you liked this issue of Socialist Worker, why not subscribe for just £5 a month?

phone 020 7819 1171 or email circ@socialistworker.co.uk



Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking at the protest rally



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Claims over jobs are inflated

THOSE IN favour of Trident renewal have inflated figures about jobs to bolster their argument.

Out of 6,500 jobs at Scotland's Faslane naval base, just 520 "directly rely on the Trident programme".

There's no reason for the base to close. Decommissioning would create large numbers of jobs.

And highly skilled

projects, such as infrastructure or renewable energy building projects.

As Ollie Jones, who works making tanks, put it, "They call us defence workers, but I don't buy that."

"We're skilled workers—we just happen to work in defence."

For more on myths about Trident and jobs see bit.ly/1QIWEmg



Workers in defence could make turbines

defence workers could be put to work on socially useful

And highly skilled

ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS

EU 'internationalism' is only a liberal myth

IT'S NOT really that surprising that in the Brexit debate the European Union (EU) is portrayed as somehow embodying internationalism. After all, xenophobic Little Englanders such as Tory minister Iain Duncan Smith and Ukip leader Nigel Farage dominate the Leave campaign.

Guardian columnist George Monbiot explains that he's inclined towards the EU because "the only legitimate corrective to transnational power is transnational democracy".

Yet the EU has nothing to do with "transnational democracy". Of course it involves cross-border cooperation and supranational institutions such as the European Commission and the European Court of Justice.

But the rationale is that European capitalist states' can pursue their national interests more effectively through partially pooling sovereignty than operating on their own. This is the essence of David Cameron's case for staying.

National interests reign supreme in the EU. So the supranational institutions are all designed to be immune from democratic accountability or control. As a result, they are thoroughly permeable by corporate interests.

As Monbiot concedes, in an article that bizarrely concludes by saying he'll vote to remain, "The more I see, the more it seems to me that the EU's problems are intrinsic and systemic. The organisation that began as an industrial cartel still works at the behest of the forces best equipped to operate across borders: transnational corporations. The commission remains a lobbyists' paradise: opaque, sometimes corruptible, almost unnavigable by those without vast resources."

But the EU isn't just a bosses' club. It operates through exclusion. This is built into the project of a European union. The very idea of Europe is a secularised version of the idea of Christendom—forged in the Middle Ages in antagonism with the Muslim world. The hard right Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban invokes this idea to justify his campaign against refugees. He declared last year, "Islam has never been part of Europe."

Domination

In the 19th and early 20th centuries the idea of Europe was recast in racist terms to legitimise the European imperialist powers' domination of the rest of the world. Today's EU disavows racism.

But its external policy is imperialist. It's designed to export neoliberalism to its peripheries in eastern Europe, the Balkans, and sub-Saharan Africa. Meanwhile the EU's border agency, Frontex, polices its frontiers to keep at bay the victims of neoliberalism and war.

The refugee crisis is but a sign that the EU is failing across the board. The fall in European banking share prices since the start of the year shows the eurozone crisis hasn't gone away. So does the growing conflict between the Greek government and the European Commission over the latter's demands for further pension cuts.

As the EU fails, national antagonisms grow. Financial Times newspaper columnist Wolfgang Munchau wrote last Sunday, "After nearly 60 years of European integration, we are entering the age of disintegration." Last week Austria organised a conference of central and east European states to coordinate shutting the refugees out.

Italian prime minister Matteo Renzi is becoming increasingly vocal in his criticisms of Germany for imposing austerity policies on the eurozone. These attacks receive the open sympathy of the French government. France is stagnating economically and has seen its former partnership with Germany in leading the EU replaced by Germany's lone leadership.

But, for all its cruelties and dysfunctions, the EU has one good card left—the illusion that it represents the transcendence of nationalism. The Remain campaign plays on this illusion, while also seeking to outbid the likes of Farage in his hostility to refugees and migrants.

Theresa May, the most reactionary home secretary for a long time, supported Cameron's Brussels deal because it includes "reforms to prevent the abuse of free movement".

We need to judge the EU not on what we would like it to be, but on what it is. It is an imperialist cartel divided among increasingly bitter rivals. We have no choice but to reject it.



Birmingham teachers stage fresh walkout to defend rep

by SADIE ROBINSON

THE FIGHT to defend victimised teacher and union rep Simon O'Hara is at a critical stage. NUT union members at Birmingham's Small Heath school began a three-day strike to defend Simon on Tuesday.

It follows a three-day strike last week demanding his reinstatement. Workers plan a further three-day walkout next week.

Bosses suspended Simon after he helped lead a series of strikes against plans to turn the school into an academy.

The NUT has offered concessions to try and resolve the dispute. But as one teacher told Socialist Worker, "It's deadlock—management won't budge."

The strikers have shaken bosses and the local education authority, who fear strikers will encourage resistance elsewhere.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "It's clear that the head's under quite a bit of pressure. We were in a meeting with him yesterday and his voice was shaking.

Support

"There's a lot of support for Simon within the school, including from workers in unions that aren't on strike."

Another teacher said, "Their cages are rattled when we go to other schools and speak with other trade unionists."

The union needs to fight for more of these school meetings to pile the pressure on bosses.

A Birmingham NUT reps' meeting was set to take place on Wednesday of this week.



PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN



TEACHERS STRIKE last week (above) in defence of victimised union rep Simon O'Hara (left)

He told Socialist Worker, "Trade unions must have the right to defend their members. This is a huge attack on union rights."

He denounced the lack of support for the strikers among Labour MPs and councillors. "The Labour authority has the power to intervene," he said. "They could resolve this tomorrow."

NUT members remain determined to win Simon's reinstatement.

C

Consistent

One striker told Socialist Worker, "People are strong. Pickets have been consistent and I think that is cranking up the pressure on the bosses."

"Teachers from other Birmingham schools are here too. We're pretty upbeat."

The national union must organise now to escalate the dispute (see below) and make sure Simon wins.

Small Heath teachers have already shown that strikes can get results. Previous walkouts forced bosses to retreat on redundancies and turning the school into an academy.

Teachers have discussed whether to call for indefinite strikes to force bosses to back down.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "If it would force the head to negotiate and bring the strikes to an end quicker, I'd support an indefinite strike."

Got a story?
Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Small Heath dispute is a test for NUT union

THE FIGHT at Small Heath is not about one school or one city. Tory education secretary Nicky Morgan wants to ram through a privatised, corporate vision of education.

The Tories want to smash teaching unions, the main obstacle to her plans. Defeat at Small Heath would encourage Morgan's assault.

A victory would send a signal that the NUT is ready and able to defend its reps and education.

The union needs to step up the fight to win a swift

victory. Bosses and the education authority need to feel the full weight of the national union now.

Stepping

That means stepping up the strikes to five days a week. It means offering catch up sessions to students facing crucial exams.

It means the NUT nationally going on the offensive in the media. It means fighting hard for solidarity for the strikers across schools in Birmingham. Schools

should send delegations to the Small Heath picket line. Strikers should speak at meetings in other schools.

Solidarity action may be unlawful but there are genuine grievances in every school.

The national union should make clear that any Birmingham school that wants to ballot for action will get full and swift backing.

There should be a solidarity demonstration called. The national union should send in teams of

organisers, if needed, to support all of this.

Strikers need to lobby and press Labour politicians across the city.

Press

The union nationally should press for a meeting with Jeremy Corbyn and shadow education secretary Lucy Powell.

It should call for their support to ensure Simon is reinstated and the Small Heath union busters are stopped.

Paul McGarr, NUT activist in east London

Lawyer and survivor of Rotherham child abuse slam cops

by SADIE ROBINSON

DOZENS OF police officers who have been accused of failing to act on serious sexual abuse of children in Rotherham are still serving.

Some 54 named police officers are under investigation over their handling of child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the South Yorkshire town.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) confirmed to Socialist Worker that 35 are still serving. Some 26 out of the 54 are under formal investigation—and 18 of these are still serving officers.

The IPCC is involved in 55 separate investigations into police officers over the issue. They cover allegations including “a failure to act on reported child sexual exploitation” and “corruption by police officers”.

The police came under fire following the conviction on Wednesday of last week of four men and two women for offences relating to CSE.

Sentenced

They were found guilty of 55 offences against girls who lived in Rotherham between 1987 and 2003 and sentenced to a total of 102 years in jail.

Evidence in the trial showed that police refused to act even when victims reported abuse—and it suggested links between officers and abusers (see right).

David Greenwood is a solicitor representing 65 survivors of abuse in Rotherham. He told Socialist Worker, “Almost every young person I’ve spoken to has complained about the police.

“Some have said they were in situations as children it was obvious to police they shouldn’t have been in.

“Some say their parents complained to police and no action was taken. Others say that they complained directly and were dissuaded from doing so.

“If I were being kind to the police I would say they were incompetent.

BACK STORY

Arshid Hussain, Basharat Hussain, Qurban Ali, Karen MacGregor and Shelley Davies were convicted of 45 offences as the Rotherham child abuse trial ended last week

- Bannaras Hussain pled guilty to a further ten charges at the start of the trial
- Majid Bostan and Sajid Bostan were cleared of all charges
- The trial was the first to follow Alexis Jay’s report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham

But I actually think there was an element of corruption going on.”

Jessica was one of the complainants in the trial. She told Socialist Worker, “If people think that Rotherham’s been exposed—no chance. This is the start of it now.

“I’m glad the truth about what police officers were doing, how they were treating us, and the fact that they were involved has come out into the open.

“But there were a lot of things that didn’t come out in court.”

David said the trial raised serious questions about police. “We’ve heard evidence of money and drugs being passed between police and abusers,” he said.

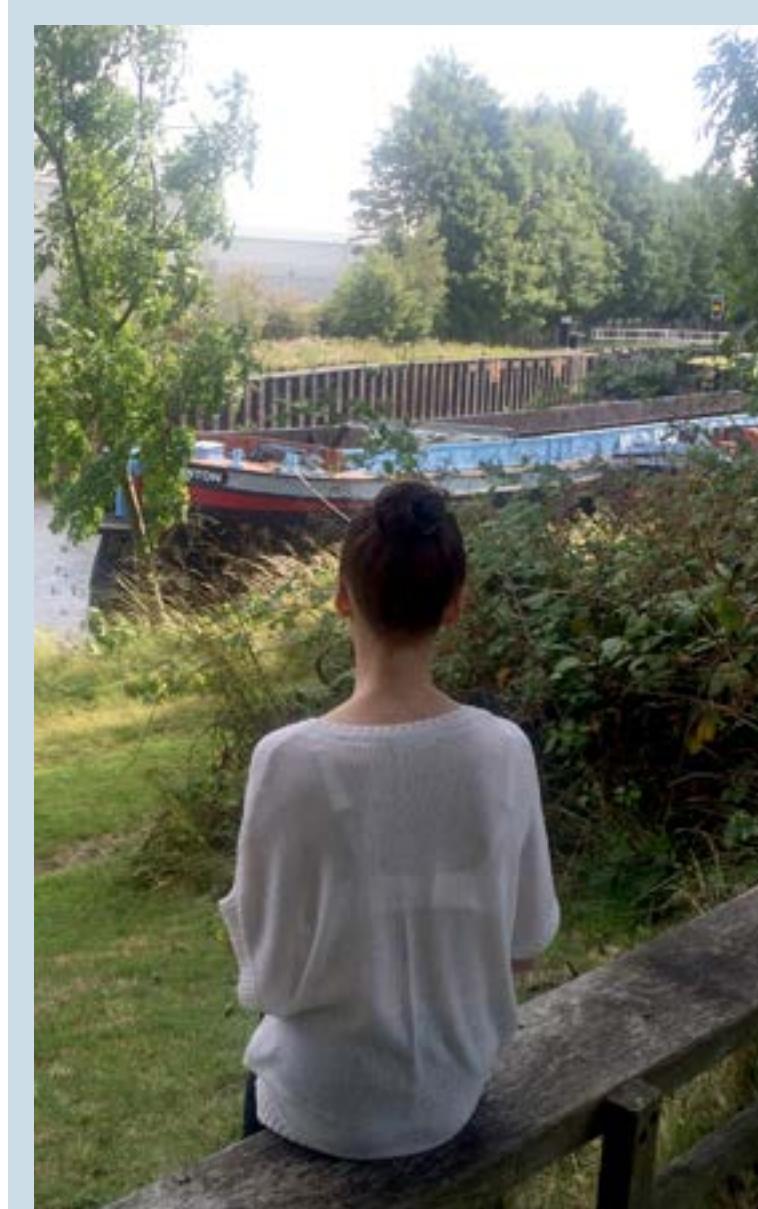
“We’ve heard evidence of behaviour from the police which suggests an element of corruption.

“I’m sure that at the heart of this there’s money.”

David added that the problem is about more than just a few “bad apples”. He said, “It’s obviously involved multiple officers over a long time period.

“I’m fairly sure it was some kind of informal organisation that was operating within the Rotherham subdivision. Beat officers share the same radios, the same canteens, the same offices.

He added, “To suggest this type of activity has not been picked up on through simple negligence is stretching it too far.”



David Greenwood (above), the solicitor who is representing 65 survivors in Rotherham, said he thinks there was an “element of police corruption” going on

Jessica (left), a survivor of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, said that the trial was just “the start of it”. Read her full interview at socialistworker.co.uk/art/42240/A

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

‘The entire force has a case to answer’ says Rotherham police commissioner

WOMEN GIVING evidence in the Rotherham child abuse trial told the court of beatings, rapes and assaults they endured at the hands of their abusers.

Victims said abusers threatened to kill them and their families. Some had been trafficked around Britain and forced to have sex with men.

Time after time the court heard that the authorities were aware of abuse yet failed to act—or helped abusers evade arrest.

Prosecutors said staff at complainant Girl B’s children’s home didn’t seem to be interested “in whether she returned in a bloodied state”.

Girl B said she reported the abuse to detective constable Kenneth Dawes but “nothing happened”. She said she knew Dawes because he “used to come to houses where we were”.

She said, “He used to have sex with girls and he used to take drugs from people and pass them on to Ash.”

The jury heard that Arshid Hussain and Qurban Ali were known as Mad Ash and Blind Ash respectively.

Girl B’s mother said she took

more involved with it, with them?”

Girl L said Basharat Hussain knew details of a safe house she was due to go to in order to escape him. She said, “He said he had someone in CID to tell him these things.

“He would give them money and they would tell him what was happening with me and stop him getting busted.”

Girl J said one police officer was involved in a deal to help her abuser, Arshid Hussain, avoid arrest after she had been missing with him. She said police would go to Hussain’s house “quite a lot” and give him a “heads up” that officers were looking for her.

The court heard that evidence given to police relating to Girl J’s abuse was “lost”.

Following the verdicts even Alan Billings, South Yorkshire police and crime commissioner, said, “It wasn’t a single officer. It was the entire force that has a case to answer.”

More online...
For more coverage on Rotherham go to socialistworker.co.uk

Kurds killed as Turkey's clampdown continues

Kurdish people in southern Turkish cities are facing brutal repression by the state, reports Charlie Kimber

TURKISH FORCES launched a further round of assaults last weekend in their bitter war against the country's Kurdish minority.

People took to the streets in the city of Diyarbakir last Saturday to protest against continuing military occupation and lockdowns that prevent any normal life.

Turkish security forces fired tear gas and water cannon against them.

Several people were later shot dead.

Isis forces also launched an attack on the Kurdish-controlled town of Tell Abyad on Syria's border with Turkey on Saturday.

Turkish artillery fired on the same area at the same time.

Such incidents underline what the Turkish state has repeatedly stated—that it sees the Kurdish national liberation struggle as a greater threat than Isis.

There is a civil war being fought in the cities and towns of south east Turkey. Over 50 round-the-clock curfews have been imposed by the central government on Kurdish-majority communities—in some places for the last three months.

Gunships

The government has used tanks, artillery, and helicopter gunships to destroy whole sections of cities and cut off supplies of electricity, water and gas.

Opposition parties and human rights groups have recently said that the attacks have forced 200,000 Kurdish civilians to leave their homes.

According to Faysal Sariyildiz, a local MP for the HDP party, the population of Cizre has fallen from 120,000 to a mere 20,000.

Last week Turkish police arrested Glasgow East MP Natalie McGarry while she was visiting Diyarbakir because she dared to record the sound of bombs falling. She was later released.

Turkey is a member of Nato and a key Western ally in the region. It is

BACK STORY

Kurds in Turkey and northern Syria are fighting both the Turkish state and Isis

- The Turkish army has been sent to Kurdish areas of Turkey to clamp down on Kurdish resistance
- Fighting between young Kurdish activists and security forces has cost hundreds of lives
- Isis has also targeted Kurdish rallies and organisations with bombs. And the Turkish government is accused of allowing it

trusted to make components for the Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jet.

The British government disgracefully refuses to condemn its ally's actions.

Instead it has welcomed Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu to London to discuss military cooperation and increased trade.

The US occasionally criticises aspects of Turkey's murderous actions against the Kurds, but does nothing effective.

Over the last 100 years the Kurds have been betrayed by all the major powers. At various points imperialists have used sections of the Kurdish movement for their own ends—and then dumped them.

At the same time the 30 million Kurds have had their national rights denied in Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran.

As they manoeuvre for control, the US, Russia, the Syrian regime and even Israel have all claimed to be friends of the Kurds. None of them can be trusted an inch.

The demonstration on Sunday in London against Turkey's war on the Kurds deserves full support.

National Demonstration, Stop Turkey's War on the Kurds. Break the silence! Sunday 6 March 2016, 1pm, BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA.

March to Trafalgar Square. Go to stopwaronkurds.org

PROTESTERS RUN from tear gas in the city of Diyarbakir

IRAN

Elections reveal anger and divisions

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

EARLY ELECTION results from Iran have indicated large gains for the List of Hope, the "reformist" wing of the Islamic Republican regime's ruling class.

Votes were still being counted as Socialist Worker went to press. Iranians have been voting for members of Iran's parliament and the Assembly of Experts.

This body picks the Supreme Leader, who is legally more powerful than the president.

In Tehran province, the country's most populous, the List of Hope was set to take all 30

parliamentary seats. It has also won 15 of the province's 16 seats for the Assembly of Experts.

These are the first elections since president Hassan Rouhani signed a deal over Iran's nuclear programme with the US last July.

The election shows up divisions within Iran's ruling class.

Fighting

The regime is increasingly locked into a regional clash with Saudi Arabia—against the backdrop of fighting in Syria.

The lifting of sanctions after the deal eased some pressure on the ruling class.

But it hasn't improved ordinary Iranians' lives or overcome years of stagnation.

Rouhani and his allies want to pursue limited reforms, such as opening up the economy, to overcome these problems.

Others are worried it could open the door to more opposition and threaten the regime's stability.

Elections are an opportunity for ordinary Iranians to show their anger. This is what's driving the "reformists'" gains.

But this mood must translate into independent mobilisations from below if ordinary Iranians are to benefit.

More online

● For our coverage of the US elections go to socialistworker.co.uk



@socialistworker
Socialist Worker (Britain)

South Africa students revolt

SOUTH African university campuses are burning with revolt.

Protests are bursting out across the country over fees, racism, exclusions and the way the apartheid past still shapes education.

At least eight universities have seen battles in the past week. Parts of the campus at University

in Mahikeng have been described as "a war zone", with students claiming live rounds had been used against them.

Cleaners are campaigning and striking about outsourcing and pay cuts at University of Free State in Bloemfontein.

Hundreds of students joined solidarity protests

with the cleaners.

The ruling ANC last week expressed outrage at what it says are signs of deteriorating race relations and tensions at universities.

It admitted that the clashes were over real grievances, but condemned violence regardless of circumstances.

For a longer version see bit.ly/1VMTCAz

A debate in Labour

I WAS recently invited to give a talk about fighting the Trade Union Bill to New Forest East Labour Party.

I expected a small and mature audience to listen politely for 20 minutes.

Instead there were 29 people of all ages. Many were very keen to discuss how to fight for stronger unions, support refugees and campaign against the crimes of the powerful.

Enthusiasm for Jeremy Corbyn has doubled membership and made it easier to talk about politics.

One young nurse had set up a support campaign for refugees. She repeatedly demanded we march on the streets. The 19 March protests went down well.

For 90 minutes the discussion ranged across all these areas—and the overall theme was basically reform or revolution.

Matt Clement
 Southampton

Look at the big picture

THE STRUGGLES of the junior doctors and the students fighting to save the NHS Bursary don't take place in isolation.

Protests against Trident highlight this rotten government's priorities.

Funds are available for warfare while the NHS faces endless cuts and attacks on workers.

Racists say migrants are a drain on our society. But 11 percent of all NHS workers and 26 percent of doctors are foreign nationals.

By uniting the struggles we can combat the attacks of the ruling class.

Jenny Leow
 South London

Obama let us down

WAY BACK in 2008, US president Barack Obama promised he would close down the notorious Guantanamo Bay prison camp before he left office.

Eight years on he's doing it at the last minute—sort of. Indefinite detention will continue, just not in that building. Even that's only if the US Congress agrees.

Sam Dyson
 Peterborough



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

Get Branson off the planet

I SEE Richard Branson is pushing on with his plans for space tourism for the mega rich—despite the death of a pilot. I suppose Alton Towers just isn't good enough for billionaires.

You would think he'd be busy enough trying to grab chunks of the NHS.

Although the project is not exactly green there might be a positive side to it—if he offers one way tickets only and becomes the first passenger.

Geoff Beer
 Kent

Seize this time, Labour

YOUR ARTICLE says "Tories' division over EU referendum is a chance to beat back this rotten government" (Socialist Worker online, 20 February).

The best time for Jeremy Corbyn to strike this rotten government is now!

Lizzie Christian
 on Facebook

Will the TUC fight back?

YOU REPORT "Junior doctors back more strikes against Hunt's contract" (Socialist Worker online, 19 February).

What's the TUC doing about it?

Fred Marshall
 on Facebook

Help Feminist Library live on

THE FEMINIST Library in Southwark, south London, is in danger of eviction on 1 March due to rent rise.

Please sign and share the petition to save it at tinyurl.com/h43hdvx

@emmashula
 on Twitter

New rule cuts vital payouts

EMPLOYMENT Tribunal payouts in Yorkshire and the North East have fallen by 60 percent in a year.

Anyone now unfairly dismissed at work wanting to bring a case to a tribunal has to pay a fee many can't afford. This pernicious rule was introduced in 2013 by the Tories and Lib Dems.

John Appleyard
 West Yorkshire



PICTURE: OONA RAISANEN

Greece is a real worry

I WOULD have been on the Remain side if it wasn't for the euro and the referendum in Greece.

It's made me ask, what if Britain joined the euro and the EU ignored our vote to reject a bailout?

Already 19 EU members are in the euro, and naturally an enlargement is down the line. At some point we need to jump in or leave. Remaining is the larger risk.

Cee-Jay Thomas
 on Facebook

Better than nothing

IF THE vote is to leave the EU, the Tory right and Ukip will be strengthened. It will be interpreted as a mass vote against migrants.

The EU isn't perfect—it's made up of neoliberal governments. But it has the potential to promote internationalism and cooperation on things like climate change.

I agree Greece was stuffed but that's an argument against the eurozone not against the EU.

John Benest
 on Facebook

Would the right gain?

IS THERE not a danger that a vote to Leave will benefit Ukip and the EDL more than it will the left?

@Nick_O_Larse
 on Twitter

Bring down 'Fortress'

GOVERNMENTS AND businesses that support the EU are happy for "Fortress Europe" to bar people coming from Africa and Asia.

They show no international solidarity when it comes to turning refugees back.

EU countries reluctantly agreed to take in a very inadequate number of refugees, only because of the sheer courage of refugees against all odds.

The EU also showed no international solidarity in the way it treated the Greek government.

Julie Webster
 on Facebook

Leave racist Europe

IN SAXONY racists cheer as a fire destroys a refugee shelter. The Mediterranean has become a mass graveyard for refugees blockaded by Nato warships.

Desperate human beings rot in squalor in Calais and Dunkirk while Europe boasts it has "free movement".

Neo-Nazi parties such as France's Front National and Hungary's Jobbik flourish across the continent. Cameron spends days negotiating with Europe for the "right" to withhold benefits to immigrants.

Europe is rotten with racism and fascism. I will vote to Leave.

Sasha Simic
 East London

A POLITICAL REVOLUTION

The crisis was supposed to be over for Ireland's elites. But last week's election saw a disaster for them—and a surge for the radical left. New socialist TDs told **Simon Basketter** the rebellion against austerity is just getting started

THE establishment took a kicking in Ireland's general election last weekend. The vote reflected continuing resistance to austerity, and in particular the powerful campaign against water charges.

The left of Labour Anti Austerity Alliance/People Before Profit (AAA/PBP) group and Sinn Fein made significant gains.

The AAA/PBP won five seats so far, a real advance and a great achievement. People Before Profit's newly elected TD (MP) for Dublin Mid West Gino Kenny said, "We'll use the Dail (parliament) to mobilise as many people as possible. When there are strikes or upheavals, we'll be there.

"We'll use the parliament to voice the concerns of people who are fighting. The main thing is to be shoulder to shoulder with anyone who's striking against the system."

People Before Profit councillor Brid Smith was waiting for her result as Socialist Worker went to press. She said, "Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny and the government entered the campaign confident to the point of arrogance. They believed that 'the recovery' for those at the top would carry them through. The Irish people have decisively rejected them."

Early hopes that Fine Gael/Labour could win on the basis of claiming to have secured prosperity soon turned to dust. One opinion poll taken just before the election showed that more than half said they "had felt no economic benefit" from the supposed recovery.

Ireland has the second highest percentage of low-paying jobs in the developed world.

"Whingers"—as Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny described the voters—got their revenge and gave him and his coalition partner the Labour Party a seriously bloody nose.

The Labour Party went from 20 percent of the vote last time to 6.6 percent.

Voters have followed the path taken by the Spanish and Portuguese



People Before Profit's newly elected TD for Dublin Mid-West Gino Kenny being held aloft after result announced

'Build the resistance'

Brid Smith Dublin South Central

WHATEVER THE result in my constituency, this election has seen a major advance for the left in Ireland.

The big picture is that the combined vote of the two main capitalist parties, Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, has dropped to a historic low—from 82 percent in 1982 to 45 percent now.

For the AAA-PBP to win six seats is a huge achievement and there will be at least three other serious socialists in the Dail.

This shows that we have a massive opportunity to go on mobilising resistance and building organisationally. We must seize this moment.

Regarding my own election we had a magnificent grassroots campaign. I would like to thank the working people of Dublin South Central for putting their faith in me, and my brilliant team for resisting the attempts of the Fianna Fail lawyers to deprive the people of their democratic choice.

Now the struggle continues."

electorates in rejecting a government that implemented a European Union (EU)/International Monetary Fund (IMF) bankers' bailout.

Since 2010, Ireland's top 300 wealthiest individuals have doubled their wealth. These 300 individuals have a combined wealth of £70 billion, a fifth of all the wealth in the country. In contrast half of all Irish people have less than 5 percent of that wealth.

Now it is just over half. So the establishment parties are down 25 percentage points.

The last two elections have rewritten Irish parliamentary politics.

After being the natural party of government for most of the history of the Irish state, Fianna Fail was decimated in the 2011 election for implementing an EU austerity package. This time Fianna Fail recovered slightly. It did this partially by tacking left in opposition to the government.

It campaigned on an "Ireland For All" slogan. It portrayed Fine Gael as only being interested in the wealthier classes. Which is true about Fine Gael—but it's true about Fianna Fail too. Anti Austerity Alliance TD Paul Murphy was right to say the election was a "political earthquake".

We'll use parliament to voice concerns of people who are fighting



A DEMONSTRATION against water charges in Dublin last month

No rush to form a coalition

THE MASSACRE of the coalition has raised the prospect of the previously unthinkable marriage of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail.

Fine Gael and Fianna Fail are two conservative parties with very little difference between their policies.

A grand coalition between them is possible, but it would be a historic shift.

Their roots are in the civil war of the 1920s over whether to accept the partition of Ireland. That was the context for AAA/PBP TD Gino Kenny to say, "Civil war politics was over a long time ago. What we're going to have now is class warfare."

After these results it will be hard to set up a government, and one possibility is a second election.

Sinn Fein have ruled out forming a coalition. Sinn Fein has tacked left in the South

compared to in Northern Ireland where it has overseen austerity measures.

Throughout the course of the year Sinn Fein appeared to be getting 20 percent and over in the opinion polls and there was some talk of them replacing Fianna Fail.

But Sinn Fein scored 13.8 percent of the vote—percent a increase of 3.9 percent.

But the experience of the last two junior coalition parties—Green and Labour—being trounced after a spell in government may mean Sinn Fein won't rush to be in a coalition.

It may be possible, just, to prop up a coalition with a rise



Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams (top), outgoing taoiseach Enda Kenny (above)

in the number of independents and smaller parties.

Happily, pro-business, anti-abortion party Renua Ireland was effectively ruled out of coalition when its leader, Lucinda Creighton, lost her seat.

In contrast Ruth Coppinger, elected for the Anti Austerity Alliance, promised action over the constitutional ban on abortion.

"The People Before Profit/Anti Austerity Alliance group will put forward a bill to repeal the 8th Amendment within three months," she pledged.

Left independents such as Joan Collins, and Clare Daly add to the radicals in the Dail.

'People are still very angry'

Richard Boyd Barrett TD, Dun Laoghaire

Richard Boyd Barrett, a member of the Irish Socialist Workers Party and People Before Profit, was re-elected. He increased his vote significantly to be the first elected in the Dún Laoghaire constituency.

WE PLAYED a really critical role in building what is probably one of the biggest mass movements in the history of the state around water charges. That has boosted our fortunes enormously.

Although we have relatively small forces in the Dail (parliament) we set the agenda for the left on a whole range of issues.

People are still very angry at the unfair impact of austerity. It has

generated an enormous housing crisis, a huge

There's a major realignment of the left political landscape and a move away from civil war parties. There is an important move against the establishment. Much, but not all of it, is to the left.

Now we don't want another centre right government of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. That

would be a right wing neoliberal government.

Sinn Fein has adopted an anti-austerity posture for the last five years, pushed all the way by ourselves and the mass movement.

They wobbled however on their involvement in that movement. So they lost credibility among a significant layer of people.

They also have a dilemma. They want to keep their options open.

They want to join the establishment but they are under huge pressure from the mass movement and their own working class base.

The water charges movement was always about much more than water.

It was a culmination of fury and anger against six years of austerity and the betrayal of the Labour Party finally finding a focus.

There's a fantastically high level of political engagement in the working class.

I don't think that's going away any time soon and I think it will put enormous pressure on any government that comes in.

Our task is to continue to agitate and push that movement forward.

Whether we can convince unions I don't know.

But we have to try to push the unions while the government is being negotiated, which will take several weeks.

We need to be pushing hard to mobilise that movement again and set the agenda for any incoming government."

There's a fantastically high level of political engagement in the working class

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown.

Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

EDINBURGH

The real tradition of International Women's Day

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, University of Edinburgh, Room G05, 50 George Square, EH8 9JU

GLASGOW

International Women's Day—celebrating the struggle against oppression

Tue 8 Mar, 7.30pm, The Mercure Hotel, Ingram St, G1 1DQ

YORK

Marxism and women's liberation

Wed 16 Mar, 7.30pm, Priory Street Community Centre, 15 Priory St, YO1 6ET

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

The politics of disability

Thu 10 Mar, 6pm, The Snug, Ma Cameron's, 6-8 Little Belmont St, AB10 1JG

BARNESLEY

How can we stop Tory destruction of council housing?

Thu 10 Mar, 6.30pm, YMCA, Blucher St, S70 1AP

BOLTON

A rebel's guide to Rosa Luxemburg

Wed 9 Mar, 6.30pm, Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St, BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Housing crisis—where are we going to live?

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, Glyde House, Little Horton Lane, BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

Marxism and imperialism—why does capitalism lead to war?

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, YHA, 14 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA

BURNLEY

The politics of fracking

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, BB11 1NR

CAMBRIDGE

Education and neoliberalism

Thu 17 Mar, 7.30pm, St Paul's, Hills Rd, CB2 1JP

CARDIFF

Abortion rights—defending a woman's right to choose

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Cathays Community Centre, Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

Marxism and disability

Thu 17 Mar, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

The EU—a left case for exit

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, Chesterfield Library, New Beechwell St, S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

James Connolly and the 1916 Easter Rising

Wed 16 Mar, 7.30pm, The Odd One Out, 28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

COVENTRY

Marxism and women's liberation

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, West Indian Centre, 159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

DERBY

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Thu 17 Mar, 7pm, West End Community Centre, Mackworth Rd, DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

Fortress Europe and the fight for free movement

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Women's Centre, 21 Cleveland St, DN1 3EH

EXETER

Rosa Luxemburg—reform or revolution

Thu 10 Mar, 7pm, New Horizon Cafe, 47 Longbrook St, EX4 6AW

HARLOW

The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

The united front

Wed 9 Mar, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade, HD1 5JP

LANCASTER

The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Thu 10 Mar, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Fighting oppression and exploitation—the real tradition of International Women's Day

Thu 10 Mar, 7pm, Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Missile madness—why we say Trident must go

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, The Caledonia, 22 Caledonia St, L7 7DX

LONDON: BRENT AND HARROW

Art and revolution

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, The Pepperpot Centre, 1a Thorpe Close, Ladbrooke Grove, W10 5XL

LONDON: BRIXTON

What do we mean by the united front?

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Rd, SW2 1EP

LONDON: CAMDEN

The internationalist case for leaving the European Union

Thu 17 Mar, 7pm, Chadwick Building - G07, University College London, Gower St, WC1E 6BT

LONDON: EALING

The politics of sport

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, West London Trade Union Club, 33-35 High St, Acton, W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Bernie Sanders—could there be a red in the White house?

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, The Round Chapel, 2 Powerscroft Rd, E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Marxism and women's liberation

Wed 16 Mar, 7.30pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, NG13 5FN

OXFORD

Bernie Sanders—could there be a red in the White House?

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Restore, Manzil Way, OX41 YH

PLYMOUTH

Fascism—what it is and how to fight it

Thu 17 Mar, 7pm, Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

POOLE

Will the next world war start in Syria?

Mon 14 Mar, 7.30pm, Globe Cafe, 88 High St, BH15 1DB

PORTSMOUTH

Who gains from the EU?

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Somerstown Central, Rivers St, PO5 4EY

LONDON: NEWHAM

Is Bernie Sanders the US's Jeremy Corbyn?

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, Stratford Advice Arcade, 107-109 The Grove, E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Fighting oppression and exploitation—the real tradition of International Women's Day

Thu 10 Mar, 7pm, Camberwell Leisure Centre (Room 2), Artichoke Place (off Camberwell Church St), SE5 8TS

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

How to combat alienation

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, Oxford House, Derbyshire St, E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Bernie Sanders and the US election campaign

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Quaker Meeting House, 1a Jewel Rd, E17 4QU

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Pride, Politics and Protest—a Marxist analysis of LGBT+ oppression

Wed 9 Mar, 7pm, Chorlton Central Church, Lower York St, WF1 3LJ

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Fighting oppression and exploitation—the real tradition of International Women's Day

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, Brynmill Community Centre, St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Unions, Labour and the fight against austerity

Thu 10 Mar, 7.30pm, Lightwaves Centre, Lower York St, WF1 3LJ

WOLVERHAMPTON

What price democracy under Cameron's Tories?

Wed 9 Mar, 7.30pm, Wild Bytes Cafe, Darlington St, WV1 4HW

YORK

Education and neoliberalism



Sketching the inspiration from revolution in Russia

An exhibition of Sergei Eisenstein's drawings reveals some of the Soviet film maker's power and little known aspects of his work, says **Roger Huddle**

SERGEI EISENSTEIN, known as the director of the most iconic films about revolution—*Strike*, *Battleship Potemkin* and *October*—welcomed the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 enthusiastically.

He was still a student in 1918 when he enlisted in the revolutionary Red Army as an engineer.

During the Civil War against the forces that wanted to restore capitalist rule, he became involved with a small theatre group in his unit.

All kinds of literary, visual art, film and theatre groups flourished in the organisations of the revolution, in the army, in the streets and in the factories.

Later, in the early years of the workers' state, Eisenstein became closely involved with the experimental theatre of Vsevolod Meyerhold.

He also designed sets for the First Workers Theatre in Moscow.

Angle

It is from this point that this small exhibition at the Gallery for Russian Arts and Design begins.

Eisenstein made the transition to film during the early 1920s.

His techniques included using individual characters to stand as models for a wider type, and to make a more general point about social movements.

He also employed montaging the narrative from various perspectives, shot at every possible angle and as close as possible.

Eisenstein believed that two or more images edited together create a third which can be greater than the



EISENSTEIN'S COSTUME design for King Duncan in *Macbeth*, performed in 1922

©RUSSIAN STATE ARCHIVES OF LITERATURE AND ART, MOSCOW

sum of the parts. Through such techniques he brought a revolutionary style of film into existence.

These achievements of Eisenstein are only hinted at in the exhibition, but are there nevertheless.

The curators have managed to

show in what ways Eisenstein's art impacted on British film makers from Laurence Olivier to Derek Jarman, Sally Potter and Mark Cousins.

The most unexpected part of the exhibition for me was the number of his drawings on show, from costume

designs and stage sets, to posters, and a wonderful drawing of a queue.

They are all small sketches, but quite clearly show that Eisenstein was part of the art movements developing within Europe as well as in Russia.

This is the era of cubism, futurism and expressionism.

Some drawings are so reduced in line they seem to prepare us for the minimalist experiments in art later on.

Most of the exhibition concentrates on Eisenstein's many links with London, which are fascinating.

And it also shows the relationship between Eisenstein and the rising bureaucracy of Joseph Stalin, which Eisenstein clashed with directly.

The extracts and sketches from the two parts of *Ivan the Terrible* have obvious links to Stalin.

His later masterpiece *Alexander Nevsky* is also represented in his character sketches and film clips.

In my youth, Soviet Russia would have found these works difficult to explain.

It has been said that Eisenstein was forced to cut all references to Leon Trotsky in his film of *October*—which is a bit like cutting Hamlet from Hamlet and leaving the story intact.

Give yourself some time if you are around Oxford Circus in London to see this intimate and rewarding exhibition.

Unexpected Eisenstein,
17 February to 30 April.
Gallery for Russian Arts and Design.
Little Portland Street.
London, W1W 7JB
Free entry

EXHIBITION

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE BRONTE

National Portrait Gallery,
London WC2H 0HE.
Until 14 August
Free
npg.org.uk

THIS EXHIBITION marks the 200th anniversary of novelist Charlotte Bronte's birth.

It revolves around a famous portrait by her brother Branwell Bronte with Charlotte, her sisters Emily and Anne, and his own ghostly shadow in the middle.

Charlotte grew up and began writing during a time of social upheaval, and this shaped her work. Charlotte is famous for her



Charlotte Bronte

1847 novel *Jane Eyre*, which was an early exploration of issues flowing from women's oppression as well as highlighting the impact of class.

One character says, "women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties".

Such ideas were certainly unusual in the mid-nineteenth century.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

1 **A Very Capitalist Condition—a history and politics of disability**
Roddy Slorach

2 **1916—Ireland's Revolutionary Tradition**
Kieran Allen

3 **A Rebel's Guide to Eleanor Marx**
Melisa Benn

4 **The Corbyn Colouring Book**
James Nunn

5 **Bob Marley—Roots, Reggae and Revolution**
Brian Richardson

Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

Not the normal drama, not the usual take on crime

TELEVISION

MURDER
BBC2
Thursday 3 March, 9pm

BBC TWO'S dark crime drama *Murder* breaks new ground in an increasingly crowded field.

It is made up of three stand-alone episodes.

The first—The Third Voice—explores the effect of murder on the living who are left behind.

It revolves around three deaths. Leo and Katrina Durridge's young daughter Sonia died of meningitis while they were on holiday in Rome.

Leo can't get over it and blames his brother-in-law Rafe who was looking after Sonia.

Detective Sergeant Corrine Evans has just arrived back to work.

She was signed off after trying to investigate her police partner's death in a road-side hit and run.

The episode opens with an old film clip of a young girl, before the camera hones in on the first crime scene.

Leo and Rafe have just been pulled out of the river Tweed on the Scottish Borders after a fishing trip. Despite a few bruises and stitches Leo is



Leo survives a fall into the river, his brother-in-law doesn't

alive—Rafe is lying on a coroner's table.

Leo tells us the river bank collapsed—but a bystander says they heard a third voice.

The Third Voice is directed in a profoundly alienating way.

Each scene is filmed as a stand-alone clip, with only one of the protagonists talking.

This makes the dialogue intense, although it can also feel disjointed and hard to follow at times. New characters are introduced without warning.

But it is very powerful when you are exposed

to the protagonists' personal struggles. For example, Evans questions the coroner's assertion that Rafe died from a stab wound from a six inch blade—and then complains bitterly to us about his mocking.

The writers pore over police reports of real crimes to put together the show.

Its power is in its forcing us to think about the issues behind the events.

That's what makes *Murder* different from other crime dramas that have saturated our television screens.

Tomáš Tengely-Evans

MATT Wrack is the general secretary of the firefighters' FBU union. The union voted overwhelmingly to reaffiliate to Labour last November, having been unaffiliated since 2004.

What has Jeremy Corbyn's election as Labour leader meant for trade unions and the left? Corbyn's election reflected a groundswell of feeling in the Labour movement and beyond about hostility to mainstream politics.

It is the chance of a lifetime to shift politics in our direction. To shift politics in the direction of the working class and the Labour movement and to raise socialist ideas.

I don't think we can afford to miss that opportunity.

In terms of what Corbyn has achieved, take the Trade Union Bill. I think that Labour's opposition to it in parliamentary terms is undoubtedly a lot firmer than it would have been in any other circumstances.

The fact you've got a Labour leader who has unapologetically supported the unions is a breath of fresh air.

I'm not uncritically saying that Labour's going to bring about the promised land. But it is an opportunity.

What I'm saying is that there is a struggle, and that's where we need to be. Corbyn's clearly under massive attack within the parliamentary party and whole areas of the Labour Party machine.

You don't stand aside from that. You get stuck in.

What does getting stuck in mean for trade unions and others on the left who want to support Corbyn?

There has to be a debate about policy. There's been two and a half decades of a drift towards the right in the Labour Party. One thing that jumps out at you is how far back debate in Labour has been thrown.

There has to be a debate on Labour Party democracy. It's bizarre that there's still people being expelled from Labour under Corbyn's leadership.

The left in Labour needs to be organised. I'm critical of some of the dilly-dallying around the Momentum group, and some of the retreats that seem to have been made. Although I understand people need to be tactical.

The growth in Labour Party membership is pretty remarkable. Those people need to be organised. They need to know how to operate in Labour politically.

I think the left in the trade unions need to be organised politically. They need to be making demands of the trade



Matt Wrack addressing a union rally in 2010 PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN



was expelled from Labour 25 years ago. That you have to go through this process after 25 years, and having led a union into affiliation, didn't go down very well with other people on our union's executive.

There's no point getting rattled by that. But it shows that there are people within the Labour Party machine who clearly don't want to see change.

What is the best way to resist the Trade Union Bill?

I don't think there's an easy answer—that you just click your fingers and mass resistance emerges.

The truth is the movement isn't where it was in the early seventies in terms of membership, in terms of industrial strength, nor in terms of workplace organisation.

The left could play a real role in rebuilding workplace organisation, which to me would be the key in resisting the anti-union laws.

You need people on the ground who are able to organise campaigns, ballots, strikes, pickets, protests and so on.

The lessons of the early seventies is precisely that. The TUC may eventually call something. But if we're to do so it would probably be on the back of mass movements.

If we're frank, we've got a lot of work to do there.

There are organisations—Unite the Resistance, the National Shop Stewards Network—who do good work.

Neither of them are up to what we need to do. I think that's a real problem.

But that sort of idea, of a network of workplace organisations, is absolutely what we need.

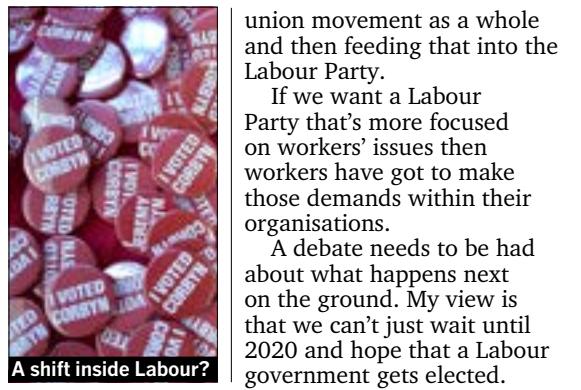
Linking that back to Corbyn, there's an opportunity for raising socialist ideas within that.

Every time there have been breakthroughs in workplace organisation, people with radical ideas and socialists have played key roles.

Putting socialist ideas back on the map has to be linked with a model of trade unionism that is based in the workplace rather than head

'LET'S GET TO WORK IN LABOUR'

Firefighters' union leader Matt Wrack told Nick Clark the left needs to build fighting organisation in the workplace—and get stuck into the struggle to reshape the Labour Party



A shift inside Labour?

The left in the trade unions need to be organised politically

The best chance of getting a Corbyn government elected is actually fighting now.

It's been reported that people in your own local party have questioned your application to rejoin.

I believe only one person voted against. That's what I was told by people who were at the meeting.

I don't know where the person writing that report got his information from. I

union movement as a whole and then feeding that into the Labour Party.

If we want a Labour Party that's more focused on workers' issues then workers have got to make those demands within their organisations.

A debate needs to be had about what happens next on the ground. My view is that we can't just wait until 2020 and hope that a Labour government gets elected.

offices. Corbyn also has powerful enemies outside Labour. The experience of Syriza in Greece shows what can happen. One of the problems with the left—and the left in the Labour party—is that people aren't discussing these things on a wide scale.

First of all there would be the sort of institutional opposition, whether that's from the IMF, World Bank, the Bank of England etc.

The sort of pressure that was brought on Syriza would be brought on Britain, even if Britain was outside of the EU. I think there's a sort of naivety among people that that's not going to happen.

Actually there's far more serious things that could happen. We've already had the anonymous general in the Sunday papers making threats. A named general on a Sunday politics show criticising Corbyn. Quite sinister threats.

There's not been a discussion in the mainstream labour movement for decades about the role of the state and what the threat is there.

We're now getting all this exposure about blacklisting and the link to spy cops. That's one element of it.

We've seen in the past in Greece or in Chile what the state ultimately can do against a radical government.

So Corbyn needs to consolidate his position. The left in the movement needs to be part of that. The left in the Labour Party needs to organise and build.

Many trade unionists see the EU as offering some protection for workers' rights. What's your position?

I don't support any of the calls for withdrawal. When you cut through them all they end up being some form of nationalist opposition.

The reality is that this is going to be, by and large, a pretty nasty right wing debate mainly about migration.

Anything that isn't about challenging that won't assist workers.

If you can turn that debate away from foreign workers taking our jobs to saying this is about bosses exploiting migrant workers—yes, to undercut domestic pay rates—then you can actually turn that debate around.

Clearly that is what layers of bosses in Britain are doing. And using unemployment and unevenness in wage rates across Europe to do that.

There could be quite a good radical campaign around that. How do you organise migrant workers?

How do you demand trade union rates of pay for people brought in on contracts by employers doing



work in Britain? It could cut across some of that stuff. The arguments that the EU institutions are what are driving neoliberalism in Britain fall down.

When you look at the history of the British government and the British state, they've actually initiated neoliberalism, going back to 1979 and beyond.

One big difference between the 1970s and today is that the trade unions are a lot weaker. Whether we like it or not, some of the protections that exist are based on EU legislation.

A withdrawal under a Cameron government would immediately lead to the Tory right demanding the scrapping of all these regulations.

I don't have any illusions in the institutions of the EU or in the bureaucrats in Brussels or the European Central Bank.

But if we're going to challenge it, it would have to be a pretty fundamental challenge to all of that. It would take a genuinely mass movement across Europe to do that.

Dave Sewell looks at alternatives to the policy of cuts, and asks whether Labour's plans go far enough

AUSTERITY HAS caused immense suffering. It hasn't fixed the economy, and it's increasingly unpopular—yet no one seems ready to get rid of it.

The Tories revel in bringing misery to the poor.

This year chancellor George Osborne has traded in his talk of the "road to recovery" for dire warnings about a "cocktail of threats".

The rhetoric changes but his answer is always more cuts.

The Labour right doesn't always disagree. Chris Leslie, who was briefly shadow chancellor, last week insisted Labour mustn't speak of reversing the cuts.

"The public do not believe there is a magic money tree," he argued with great originality. "We must not give the impression that we do."

But it doesn't take magic to see the money is there—as Labour right wingers keep reminding us by insisting we spend billions on Trident.

Genuine Rightly, Labour's left wing leaders are having none of this.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell says Labour has become "an anti-austerity party" and is working on a "genuine alternative" to cuts.

He assembled a team of leading left wing economists last autumn and is now hosting a series of public "New Economics" talks.

But he's been much more cautious about policy.

McDonnell and shadow ministers have made no spending commitments, and haven't told Labour councils to pass no-cuts budgets.

The same defensiveness last year saw McDonnell stumble into briefly backing Osborne's charter for a budget surplus.

Most of his team advocates some variant of Keynesian economics, expressed in Jeremy Corbyn's call for

ANALYSIS ECONOMICS

What would anti-austerity economics look like?



BACK STORY

Chancellor George Osborne warned in January that 2016 would be "mission critical" for the economy

● Labour's leaders have denounced the Tories and now say Labour is an "anti-austerity party"

● But it will take confrontation with capital to win real change

to invest is perverse. But capitalism isn't rational. On its perverse terms, they are right.

Materially, economic expansion is possible. We have resources, and people who want to work. But it isn't profitable enough.

A firm that ignored this would be bankrupted. A government that ignored it would be pounced on by the money markets.

Bernie Sanders' candidacy in the US presidential race has revived calls for curbing the banks' influence over the rest of the economy.

Taking on the banks is long overdue, but it doesn't address the "real" economy's profitability problems that made them so important.

The real question is not economics but power. The crisis doesn't offer a win-win solution that restores bosses' profits at the same time as helping the workers they exploit.

As long as it loses time looking for one, Labour's leadership can't go on the offensive and the right will keep winning the debate.

Instead socialists must recognise that capitalism is a zero-sum game. Workers can assert and defend their interests only through a confrontation with the bosses.

The other side will fight back bitterly and ruthlessly.

Winning change means building up our side as a fighting force to beat them.

That will take more boldness than either Corbyn or McDonnell is presently showing.

There is no win-win solution on offer

The bosses' EU blocks the policies that help workers

'Captains of industry' love the European Union because it helps them profit. And a new deal has them licking their lips. **Socialist Worker** investigates

TIME and again politicians use "European laws" as an excuse for why services have to be outsourced or why our railways can't be renationalised.

Successive political leaders have wrung their hands while arguing for Britain to remain in the European Union (EU).

The pro-EU Labour and Scottish National parties, and most trade union leaders, say we need to be in the EU to fight for more "social" policies.

But the EU's driving principle has always been about what is good for business.

It is a rich man's club and an economic trading bloc, not a safety net for workers and the poor.

The "four freedoms" that underpin the EU are the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour. But they aren't all equal.

All restrictions on bosses' ability to make money, by whatever means, "shall be prohibited" a founding treaty decreed.

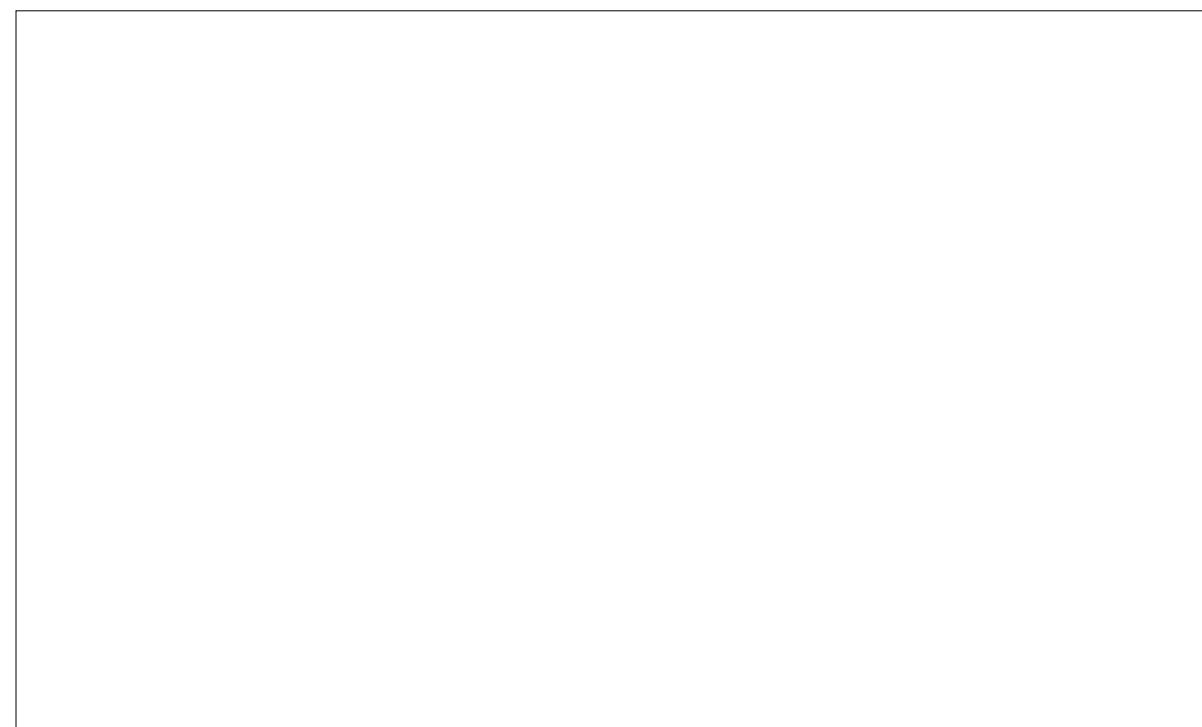
But these same "freedoms" don't apply to people.

It's true that EU citizens can move around with relative ease, especially compared to people born outside the walls of Fortress Europe, but EU states still retain the right to close their borders.

Capital faces no such restrictions. For the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) the key benefit of the EU is the "500,000,000 customers" it gives them access to.

The ERT is a powerful corporate lobby group, representing around 50 CEOs of European-based multinationals.

It supports David Cameron's campaign to keep Britain in the EU, as



BOSSES DON'T just dress the same, they think the same. They all insist that we must pay for their profits

does the bosses' CBI, which wants to "preserve the advantages of membership" to maintain company profits.

At every opportunity appointed EU commissioners further entrench the bosses' position using their economic clout. This is clear from the new TTIP trade deal (see below).

They also try to turn every crisis into an opportunity. When EU states bailed out financial institutions during the first three years of the economic crisis—to the tune of £3.5 trillion—they amassed huge public debt, creating the "sovereign debt crisis".

The ERT was quick to argue that this was "an opportunity to rethink the European Union's future course and to take decisive action".

The EU-led regime to bail out European countries unable to cope with rising debt—combining the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund—became known as the Troika.

The Troika's "rescue packages" demanded privatisation, cuts to social spending, wage and pensions cuts and attacks on workers' rights.

But these caused deeper recession and huge social crisis in countries such as Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

The fire sale of public assets and austerity ordered by the Troika has become central to maintaining the profitability of European corporations, despite the social devastation it has caused.

Weakening the bosses' club would be a boost to every anti-austerity struggle in Europe.

That's we should vote to dump it in June.

Deal will rip up NHS, so why won't Labour oppose it?

THE Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a proposed deal between the EU and the US. It could allow the privatisation of huge swathes of the public sector and make its reversal illegal.

Corporations would be able to sue a government if its laws and regulations make it difficult for them to make a profit.

This already happens under some treaties.

The German state is being sued by Vattenfall, a Swedish energy company, for over £3 billion for partially disinvesting from

nuclear power.

TTIP is part of a strategy to create a cohesive trading block capable of competing with global powers such as China.

To do this, a common economic policy needs to be forged, in part through legal action and diplomatic bullying.

The European Round Table of Industrialists sees TTIP as a "unique opportunity to set the rules for trade and investment that could serve as a benchmark for the rest of the world".

It wants to "remove all remaining market access

barriers, especially in the services sector" and give unfettered "access for companies to public procurement markets".

In Britain, the NHS is a major target for privatisation.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn says that, if elected, he will reverse any NHS privatisation. But TTIP will make this illegal.

Corbyn's response to TTIP has been to declare that, "Human rights ought to be a part of that treaty, as it should be a part of all treaties."

Given the scale of the attack, this is inadequate.



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN
Protesting for the NHS

Like the Tories, the Labour right wing support EU-enforced privatisation.

Corbyn has sacrificed his opposition to the EU for the sake of party unity.

If he wants to undo privatisation he will need to challenge the EU and challenge his enemies inside Labour.

Proposed legal challenges to EU privatisation are unlikely to win—though it is possible to defy the rules.

But arguing for a left exit in the referendum can help to save public services and pull apart the bosses' club.

Don't forget to add on my fee

AFTER the Tory sell-off of Royal Mail in 2013 "financial advisors and asset managers" Lazard made £8 million in a week. The firm grabbed shares cheap through its priority investor status then quickly sold them on.

It then pocketed £1.5 million in fees for its adviser role.

In February 2015 the Spanish government sold a 49 percent stake in its airport authority. Lazard netted a 60 percent profit within a month in the same way.



Taking the rise out of Greeks

THE TROIKA struck a deal last summer for Greece to sell 14 of its most profitable regional airports, near popular tourist destinations.

German firm Fraport got a 50-year deal to run them, while Lufthansa played an advisory role in the bargain sell-off.

Besides Lufthansa, which did well out of the deal, the German state pushed hard for Greece to privatisate assets. It owns 51 percent of Fraport.



Heads they win, tails you lose

LAW firms have made a killing from privatisation in the EU. Shearman and Sterling LLP boast of having been involved in over 100 privatisations in 27 countries.

Economic crisis has been good to them, and not just from drawing up the sell-off documents.

They have also helped firms put in claims for huge damages, worth hundreds of millions of pounds, from states forced by the Troika to cut subsidies.

IN BRIEF

Stormy weather ahead for bosses

PROSPECT UNION members at the Met Office weather forecaster struck for 24 hours on Wednesday of last week to demand equal pay for women.

Government restrictions on pay at the Met Office mean women meteorologists earn around £7,000 less than men.

That's a ten percent pay gap.

Mushin Ahmed's killers found guilty

A JURY has found Dale Jones and Damien Hunt guilty of the racist killing of pensioner Mushin Ahmed.

Jones was found guilty of murder and jailed for life with a minimum term of 32 years. Hunt was convicted of manslaughter and jailed for 14 years.

Mushin Ahmed was attacked on his way to morning prayers in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, on 10 August last year. He later died in hospital.

The trial at Sheffield Crown Court has heard that Jones held "racist beliefs" and thought Pakistani men were all "rapists".

Firefighters turn the heat up on bosses

FIREFIGHTERS IN the West Midlands were set to start an overtime ban on Thursday of this week in a fight over pay and understaffing.

The FBU union members voted for the ban after bosses cut overtime pay from the time and a half pay rate to the flat rate.

West Midlands Fire Service relies on firefighters working overtime after cutting hundreds of jobs.

Co-op truck drivers balloted for strikes

THE UNITE union is balloting more than 700 Co-op truck drivers over strikes against outsourcing.

The Co-op plans to transfer 87 workers based in Coventry to haulage giant Eddie Stobart.

A haulage strike can have an immense impact.

Workers should vote yes and Unite should call action quickly.

The ballot closes on Monday 14 March.

Union sounds the alarm in Sussex

The GMB union is moving towards a dispute with bosses at Sussex Patient Transport Services.

The workers face a transfer from the NHS's South East Coast Ambulance Service to outsourcers VM Langfords and Coperforma from 1 April.

The union says that new bosses have set "unreasonable" preconditions for talks about the transfer.

HOUSING



PROTESTING OUTSIDE Hackney Town Hall last weekend

PICTURE: DEAN RYAN

Butterfields tenants say they won't budge

by BEN MORRIS

AROUND 60 Butterfields Estate tenants and supporters packed a meeting in Walthamstow, north east London, on Wednesday of last week.

They were inspired by speakers from the New Era estate in neighbouring Hackney, who faced similar circumstances and fought back successfully.

Tenants found out in January that charity Glasspool Trust had sold off 63 homes to a private developer.

As tenants have begun to organise, the mood has shifted from shock and fear to collective action.

They've printed "Butterfields Won't Budge" window posters, ran campaigning stalls, and there are now moves to form a tenants' association.

They will also be joining the national housing demonstration 13 March in London.

One tenant explained that

her family lived nearby and that she had been there for 15 years. "This is my home. I intend to stay put," she said.

Many of the tenants are on low incomes and could not afford the borough's rocketing market rents.

One tenant on the minimum wage explained that he has to work 150 hours a month just to pay his £1,100 a month rent.

Salaries

The market rent for a two bedroom flat in the area is now around £1,500 a month.

Tenant Anna said, "I don't understand how property can go up in price every year when salaries don't go up."

"The government needs to understand that the working class is the base of the city".

■ AROUND 30 protesters burst into letting agents' offices in Hackney, east London, last Saturday, in a protest at letting practices.

Tenants' campaign Hackney

Digs called the protest at the town hall and went to three letting agents.

The firms were reported to have policies to not accept people on housing benefit as tenants.

■ YOUNG PEOPLE and children were set to lead a housing protest in Brixton, south London, this Sunday.

Campaigners are demanding more council housing and a halt to demolitions.

They also oppose the Tories' Housing and Planning Bill, which would deal social and council housing a killer blow.

● Assemble 1pm, Windrush Square, Brixton, SW12

■ SUPPORT IS growing for the national march against the Tories' Housing Bill on Sunday 13 March.

Activists held stalls to build the demo last weekend. A number of councils and trade unions are backing it.

● Assemble 12 noon, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3TL.

OPERA SINGERS**Songs of resistance**

SINGERS AT the English National Opera (ENO) in central London have voted to strike against redundancies and pay cuts.

The members of the Equity union voted 100 percent to strike.

ENO bosses want to slash choristers' pay and reduce the size of the chorus from 44 to 40.

They also want to shorten the chorus' contract from 12 to nine months.

The singers are set to strike during the first act of the Philip Glass opera *Akhnaten* on 18 March.

They also plan to stage actions short of strike from this Friday until 19 March.

This could include refusal to work overtime and protests during performances, rehearsals and costume calls.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Strikers operate in this area

GLASGOW CCTV workers were set to strike for 48 hours this weekend in a battle over unsocial hours pay.

The Unison union members plan to walk out from 7pm on Friday. They are demanding the same pay rates as other workers on similar shift patterns.

They work for council-owned firm Community Safety Glasgow (CSG).

The CCTV workers get no extra money on top of their £8.25 hourly rate for working 12-hour shifts,

24 hours a day. Workers are set to follow up with another 48-hour strike from 7pm on 17 March.

● Visit the picket line on Friday 4 March from 6.30pm at CSG HQ, Eastgate, 727 London Road, G40 3AQ. Send solidarity messages to enquiries@glasgowcityunison.co.uk

■ GMB union members at Glasgow City Council have voted in a consultative ballot for industrial action, including strikes, to defend pay and conditions.

LIBRARY WORKERS



Lambeth library workers on strike last month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Escalating library strikes can bring bosses to book

THE UNISON union has announced that it will consult its members working for Lambeth Council over a council-wide strike against library cuts.

The south London borough's Labour-run council wants to close or run down ten libraries.

Library workers have already struck twice. The union is urging members to vote yes.

Huge local opposition has forced council leaders to consider an alternative

plan that would keep all ten libraries open. But they may not accept it.

Under the council's plans, some libraries will be padlocked on 5 April.

Campaigners have pledged to occupy if the council presses ahead. A "Don't steal our libraries" march was set to take place this Saturday.

Escalating strikes can push back these attacks.

● Join the protest on Saturday 5 March, 10.30am. Assemble Brixton Library, SW2 1JQ

PAY



Council workers strike for higher pay in July 2014

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Workers reject pay insult

UNISON UNION members in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have rebuffed local government bosses' paltry two-year pay deal.

They voted by 64 percent to reject in a consultative ballot.

For most workers it

amounts to 1 percent a year. Unite union members also voted by 87 percent in a consultative ballot to reject the deal. The GMB union is consulting its members into mid March.

The unions should move quickly to a strike ballot.

Union must call strikes to stop job cull at tax offices

by NICK CLARK

THE PCS union held a rally outside parliament on Tuesday against Tory plans to close tax offices and slash thousands of jobs.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) bosses issued 150 compulsory redundancy notices last month.

They also announced plans to close 137 tax offices and axe up to 8,000 jobs last year.

The PCS has said it is considering industrial action.

Its HMRC group

executive was set to meet this week.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka told the rally, "We need to challenge them industrially. There will need to be industrial action unless there is a pretty urgent change of heart from George Osborne and the Tories.

"We're not just talking about protest—we're talking about something that will make them sit up and take notice."

It will take strikes to save jobs. Action at HMRC could lead the way for a fightback in the civil service and public sector.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Unofficial strike on carriers' site wins

by SIMON BASKETTER

SOME 150 construction workers on two new Royal Navy aircraft carriers in Rosyth on the Firth of Forth struck unofficially—and won.

The workers "cabined up" Thursday of last week after management tried to transfer six workers, including two shop stewards.

The Unite union members are directly employed by Balfour Beatty. One told Socialist Worker, "We knew they were just trying to dismantle the strong union organisation on the boat.

"The managers had been sent in to 'sort them out' or so they thought. But we will be cabined up until this gets sorted.

"We were told there were safety concerns with having guys moving between sites. But guys from one boat have been doing overtime shifts on the other one so we smelled a rat."

On Monday management agreed not to move the workers and to pay workers for the Thursday. The Balfour contract for the two aircraft carriers is worth £85 million



BLACKLISTED CONSTRUCTION workers protesting at the high court last week. Their case against the construction bosses comes to trial in May

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

to the company. Another worker added, "Balfour Beatty has apparently apologised for their blacklisting but there are still individuals within the business who are anti trade union and take delight in victimising and intimidating stewards."

One striker told Socialist Worker, "Basically the way

the management at Rosyth works is through intimidation. They try to divide and conquer us. We have had a number of issues where we've had to make them listen and they want to break that organisation.

"Initially one boat was better organised than the other. They have tried three

times before to try and transfer people to break up the lads."

Another added, "People should beware that the sly tactics of the blacklisting days are still around. Across the industry people shouldn't feel victimised or bullied. The bosses need to know that if we all need to walk, we will."

LONDON UNDERGROUND

Reinstate rep Glen Hart

THE RMT Tube workers' union has called on its members to take industrial action in defence of victimised union rep Glen Hart. It follows a two to one vote in favour of action.

Tube workers are set for a 24-hour overtime ban from 6pm on Wednesday this week.

The union demands that bosses immediately end Glen's suspension. Glen told Socialist Worker, "It's

important that RMT has called this action.

"Not only does it keep the ballot live while attempts to resolve the issue take place, it reiterates the primary reason why I was suspended 17 months ago."

Overtime bans can cause substantial disruption on the Tube.

But if bosses don't back off disciplining Glen, workers will need to prepare for stronger action.

CWU UNION

POSTAL WORKERS in the CWU union's Scotland No 2 branch are balloting for strikes over a colleague's victimisation.

David Mitchell from Cupar in Fife was sacked in 2014 after he was accused of stealing mail. Bosses have refused to reinstate David despite an employment

tribunal ruling. Some 3,000 postal workers across Scotland could strike in March they vote in favour.

■ ALMOST 100 CWU union members in Wandsworth, south London, staged an unofficial walkout over health and safety concerns on Wednesday last week.

WELL OVER 100 people crowded into a public meeting on Wednesday of last week to defend the A&E at King George Hospital in Ilford, east London. Local Labour MP Wes Streeting organised the meeting.

ANTI-FASCISM

Liverpool resists the Nazis

AROUND 500 anti-fascists protested against a small group of fascists in Liverpool last Saturday.

The North West Infidels (NWI) had claimed it would protest in Manchester, then announced it would come to Liverpool the day before the protest.

Paul Jenkins, a local Unite Against Fascism (UAF)

activist, was on the counter-protest.

He told Socialist Worker, "The anti-fascist turnout was great, with around 500 people throughout the day." He added, "The Nazis were small, about 150, but very nasty. They were openly sieg heiling and they daubed swastikas on St George's Hall."

Student Abbie James was seriously injured after being hit in the head after Nazis threw missiles. Abbie said she was in the area by chance when she was hit.

"The protesters on the steps, wearing the black

EDUCATION

Strikes over FE pay 'insult'

Continued from back page

furious at job losses, funding cuts, spiralling workloads and attacks on pay. The assault leaves students worse off.

Luciana, a student at east London's Tower Hamlets College, told the rally that colleges give people a second chance, "As a mature student, teachers have changed my life."

Trade unionists from other workplaces showed solidarity too.

James Dean, a Unison rep at Leeds City College, told Socialist Worker, "We had a really good turnout on our picket line. Staff from Leeds university came down and brought some cakes.

"The postie, a CWU union member, refused to cross the picket line so no post got delivered."

Junior doctors visited pickets at Tower Hamlets College. UCU striker Chris Anderson told Socialist Worker, "It was quite a lift to know this was a national strike and that we weren't isolated. We definitely need more strikes after today."

SCOTTISH LECTURERS

COLLEGE LECTURERS in the Scottish EIS education union finish voting in a ballot for strikes this Friday.

The result could bring about the first national strike in further education in Scotland for 20 years.

EIS members are furious at college bosses' attempts to impose a 1 percent pay deal, while some refuse to even sign up to a new national bargaining agreement.

Lambeth College Unison rep Niall McGrath stressed that action can get results. "Since August 2009 the only pay rise I've had is 1 percent in 2014," he said. "That followed a big strike. Strikes can force their hand."

James said, "We need to think about what next. It can't just be one day. We need to show we're serious."

NUT union members in sixth form colleges in England plan to walk out on 15 March over funding cuts (see below).

Mandy said, "If our bosses still refuse to give us a pay rise, we should start preparing now to join the sixth form strike."

SIXTH FORMS

NUT union members in sixth forms across England have called a strike for Tuesday 15 March.

They backed strikes by 86 percent on a turnout of 44 percent.

Teachers are fighting the impact of Tory cuts to education funding.

The strike will involve over 3,800 teachers across 93 sites.

Despite a much-lauded announcement by the Scottish National Party (SNP) government about the return to national bargaining the reality of its reorganisation of colleges has been disastrous.

A strike in further education will ramp up pressure on the SNP ahead of elections to Holyrood in May and put its "anti-austerity" credentials to the test as the party's deep cuts to the sector are exposed.

AIRPORT EXPANSION

Heathrow 13 escape jail

THIRTEEN environmental protesters won a last minute reprieve from jail for resisting airport expansion plans.

The "Heathrow 13" were convicted of trespass after they peacefully occupied a runway of London's Heathrow airport in an action called by campaign group Plane Stupid.

District judge Deborah Wright gave them six-week jail sentences suspended for one year plus community service.

It means they are unlikely to go to jail—despite being told to expect custodial sentences.

A wide campaign of solidarity had an effect.

A crowd of up to 500 supporters gathered outside Willesden Magistrates Court in north west London.

■ For a longer version go to bit.ly/21DSiKI

HEALTH SERVICE

Ilford meeting organises the fight for A&E

He told the meeting that hospital bosses have drawn up plans to try to start shutting the A&E overnight.

This would be a prelude to closure. King George is part of a trust that is crippled by huge PFI debts.

The diverse audience at last week's meeting was determined to stop the closure of the A&E.

Several people spoke to loud applause of the need to support the junior doctors in their fight for the NHS.

masks, were all cheering as I was carried out of the crowd with blood all over my face," she said.

A UAF rally in Manchester went ahead on the day, with around 100 people.

Meanwhile people in Luton kicked over a stall set up by Britain First thugs, and shoppers gathered to oppose the Nazis. Anti-fascists also mobilised against a United Patriots demo in Walsall.

■ Join the Unite Against Fascism protest against a National Front march in Swansea on Saturday 26 March. Go to facebook.com/events/1717026545198137

JUNIOR DOCTORS ESCALATE ACTION

by TOMÁS TENGELY-EVANS

JUNIOR DOCTORS are set to walk out next Wednesday in the first of three planned 48-hour strikes against the imposition of a dangerous new contract.

The British Medical Association (BMA) has also set 6 April and 26 April for further strikes after the 9 March walkout.

This marks a serious escalation and is a fight for the whole trade union movement. If the Tories get away with imposition on the junior doctors, they will be encouraged to do it to others.

Nicki, a junior doctor in east London, told Socialist Worker, "At Whipps Cross Hospital we'll have picket lines and events like last time. I want to encourage people to come and support us."

The junior doctors' strikes in January and February became a focus for anger against Tory austerity.

Solidarity is beginning to pour in from health workers and other trade unionists.

The NUT teachers' union branch in Ealing, west London, has already had a



JUNIOR DOCTORS protest on Whitehall last month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

junior doctor at its meeting. Branch secretary Stefan Simms told Socialist Worker, "There's overwhelming support from NUT members.

"They understand that

junior doctors aren't just fighting for themselves but for the NHS."

Tory budget cuts and privatisation are plunging the NHS further into the biggest

crisis in its history.

New figures last week revealed the scale of the staffing crisis gripping the NHS.

They showed 23,443

doctors and nursing posts remain unfilled, which includes 6,207 doctors' places.

Hunt claims that the new contracts are needed to bring

in "seven-day working in the NHS" in order to improve patient safety.

But the NHS already provides "emergency care" 24/7 and junior doctors work long hours, including nights and weekends.

Hunt wants to smash health workers' pay, terms and conditions in order to soften the NHS up for privatisation.

But a united fight can push back these attacks.

One London ambulance worker told Socialist Worker, "All my crew mates are very supportive of the junior doctors.

"We already work 24/7 and know that an attack on unsocial hours will affect us.

"If the junior doctors didn't fight, they would come for us next."

Activists are going around workplaces with petitions and organising solidarity cards to take down to the picket lines.

But the TUC and other union leaders need to organise practical solidarity. Unison and the other health unions should immediately ballot their members.

Huge protest against Huddersfield A&E closure

OVER 5,000 people joined a demonstration against the closure of the A&E department at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (HRI) last Saturday.

It has been described as "Huddersfield's biggest post-war demonstration".

In January the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) decided to reject a storm of public protest and put out for consultation a plan to close the Huddersfield A&E.

Stay
Throughout the march people were chanting, "CCG hear us say, HRI is here to stay!"

Closing the A&E will mean patients have to travel to Halifax.

The fear that this will lead to deaths was symbolised when marchers held a 30-second silence in memory of the first youngster to die because

it took too long to get to Halifax.

Mike Forster from the #HandsoffHRI campaign steering committee asked the crowd, "Is this a done deal?" Demonstrators chorused, "No!" Labour's Dewsbury

MP Paula Sherriff said, "I worked in the NHS so I know exactly what's on the line here. We can do this if we all stick together."

There was some booing when Tory MP Jason McCartney spoke and said, "Everyone is united for the A&E."

Shreds

A voice from the crowd shouted back, "We're not united, your bloody government is cutting the NHS to shreds."

This great march can be a spur to further struggle.

The unions should unite with the communities to stop this horrendous closure plan and keep local services in place.

The crowd chanted, "HRI, here to stay!"

Strikes over FE pay 'insult'

COLLEGE workers struck across England on Wednesday of last week against a zero percent pay "offer". The UCU and Unison union members want a £1 an hour pay rise for all.

Mandy Brown is branch secretary of Lambeth College UCU branch in south London. She told Socialist Worker, "Pay is a huge issue, especially for casualised staff. At Lambeth pay has been frozen—but rents haven't."

Another picket described the pay deal as an "insult". "I'm 37 and have had to live with my parents for



18 months," he said. Unison striker Alan Feaver said, "The Tories want to privatisate education." Workers are

Continued on page 19